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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5432

EXCISE 04616 1966 SEP 7 AM 4

SEPTEMBER 07.

H/W AMCONSUL DANANG·S TEL SAIGON 97, HUE 48, DTD SEPT 6, SIGNED POLAD FRANCIS REPEATED FOR URINFO:

1. SEPT 5 DISCUSSED VNQDD PARTICIPATION IN FORTHCOMING CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WITH [redacted] CENTRAL VIETNAM VNQDD.

2. [redacted] HAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED HIS APPRAISAL OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN THIS AREA. HE BELIEVES FOLLOWING CANDIDATES WILL WIN SEATS IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY:

A. DANANG:

(1) NGUYEN TRI KIEM (SLATE I)

(2) DO AI (SLATE II)

B. QUANG NAM:

(1) KHUC THUA VAN (SLATE V)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 12/1/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

b-1 ed

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(2) LE NGUYEN LONG (SLATE IV)

C. QUANG TIN:

(1) PHAN NHU TOAN (SLATE I)

(2) TRAN CONG DINH (SLATE IV)

(3) UNKNOWN

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D. QUANG NGAI:

(1) VO BAO (SLATE II)

(TRAN HOANG (SLATE III)

(3) & (4) UNKNOWN

3. AS BEFORE HAS PRETTY WELL RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO PREDICTING VNQDD WINNERS IN MOST CONTESTS.

4. BELIEVES THAT OF ABOVE, THE DANANG RACE IS THE MOST UNCERTAIN. HE EXPLAINED THAT DO AI WAS BASICALLY MAKING HIS APPEAL TO THE POOR PEOPLE LIVING ON THE EDGES OF THE CITY. BELIEVES THAT MOST OF THESE PEOPLE ARE ANCESTOR WORSHIPPERS AND THAT DO AI'S PROTESTANT FAITH WILL NOT BE A HANDICAP.

5. DO AI WILL ALSO RECEIVE KY BO SUPPORT AND EXPECTS TO GET MOST OF THE PROTESTANT VOTE. SAID THAT RUMORS THAT VNQDD WAS SPLIT OVER SUPPORT OF DO AI WERE UNTRUE. HE CLAIMED THAT ONLY A "VERY FEW/ DANANG VNQDD MEMBERS WERE NOT WITH KY BO ON THIS ISSUE.

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6. ALSO SAID THAT DO AI WILL GET SOME BUDDHIST SUPPORT THROUGH INFLUENCE OF HIS RUNNING MATE HE ALSO HOPES TO PICK UP A VERY FEW CATHOLIC VOTES.

7. BELIEVES THAT ABOUT 70,000 VOTERS WILL ACTUALLY GO TO POLLS IN DANANG AND HE IS HOPING FOR A FAIRLY EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF THE VOTE. IF THAT HAPPENS HE HOPES TO GET THE EDGE ON CLOSEST COMPETITOR BUI VAN GIAI (SLATE IV) HE DOES NOT BELIEVE DO AI CAN OUTDRAW KIEM.

8. COMMENT: APPEARS TO BE FAIRLY REALISTIC POLITICIAN WHO HAS THOUGHT ELECTION THROUGH FAIRLY WELL. UNLIKE SOME OF OTHER OBSERVERS HE HAS NOT CHANGED HIS OPINIONS RE ELECTION OUTCOME. HE IS, HOWEVER, FAR MORE CONFIDENT OF RESULTS IN PROVINCES THAN HE IS IN DANANG. HE NOTED THAT "DANANG POLITICS ARE THE MOST DIFFICULT TO PREDICT ACCURATELY IN ENTIRE I CORPS AREA".

GP-3. LODGE
BT

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